

medical treatment, of which there were unmistakable signs on the table—without even allowing the mother time to announce to her son the presence of a stranger—he entered the sick room, and proceeded forthwith to make an examination of the case.

"These are facts which I am instructed to bring before your notice, and I am sure you will feel yourselves compelled to inquire strictly into them.

"The matter concerns your body, of which Mr. Adams is a member; it concerns the whole of the profession you represent very nearly; and it concerns society and the public no less.

"I have the honour to be, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

"J. JONES,

Solicitor.

"12, South-square, Gray's-inn, June 13th, 1864."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Mr. Jones, of Gray's inn, has forwarded a statement to the President and Council of the Royal College of Surgeons. That statement is wholly untrue. I announced myself to Mrs. Metzner, the mother of the injured person, as the medical officer of the South-Eastern Railway Company and as surgeon to the London Hospital. She showed me to her son's room immediately. She said she had been a patient herself at the London Hospital, and that she was now under Dr. Ramskill's care. At my request, she communicated to Dr. Smith, Metzner's surgeon, whom I did not see, my wish that he would be good enough to send me his account of young Metzner's case; this he did on the 25th of May in a letter, and which letter I acknowledged. I heard no more of the case until I found it had got into Jones's hands. There was no deceit, there could be no deceit, nor could there be any reason for deceit on my part in the matter.

I am, Sir, faithfully yours,

St. Helen's-place, June 21st, 1864.

JOHN ADAMS, F.R.C.S.

P.S.—I have no doubt that I gave my card to be delivered to Dr. Smith.

LUSUS NATURÆ.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—On the morning of the 31st ult. I was called to attend to the case of Mrs. B—, residing in Belfast, who was labouring under her fifth confinement. On my arrival I ascertained that she had been in labour already twelve hours, and, on making an examination, I found the presentation to be a foot. Matters proceeded favourably until the breech presented externally, when I was surprised to feel a large, lobulated tumour, situated in the abdominal region of the child, which on examination led me to suspect all was not right with it. With but little difficulty the labour was terminated, and at half past twelve P.M. Mrs. B— was safely delivered of a large-sized living female child. On examining the child I found that a portion of the abdominal wall, embracing almost the whole of the right half of the umbilical region, was deficient, and through this the stomach, a portion of the duodenum, and large intestine protruded. Having adjusted the child and given it to the nurse, I waited about half an hour to watch how things progressed with the mother, and when I left the child was still living. On my next visit I learned that the little sufferer had existed for an hour subsequent to my departure, making in all an hour and a half, during which time it gave continual utterance to a peculiar squeak. As I have not met with a case such like before, I have thought it opportune to bring it before the notice of the profession.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Belfast, June, 1864.

W. WARWICK, M.D.

CONSEQUENCES OF MEASLES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have reason to think that children under measles and scarlet fever, if treated with *ammonia*, are not liable—at least are not so liable—to deafness, blindness, and such deformities as Mr. H. Coote has so well described in THE LANCET of the 11th inst.; and I beg leave to draw the attention of the profession to this supposed fact. It will require the combined observation of several practitioners in extensive practice to establish this as a certain fact, and consequently I am not able positively to assert that it is a fact; but I believe it to be so, and the consequences of scarlet fever and measles are frequently so severe and distressing as to render the subject worthy of the closest attention from all engaged in medical practice.

Ammonia preserves the blood in a fluid state, and frees the whole cutaneous secretion, and thus appears to be capable of preventing abnormal deposits leading to such disastrous consequences.

I am, Sir, yours sincerely,

Epsom, June, 1864.

T. J. GRAHAM, M.D.

LIVERPOOL.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CASES of hydrophobia still continue to occur in this town. In my last communication I informed you of the man who was bitten in the arm. The same dog bit its mistress still more severely in the cheek and ear. In her case the injured parts were immediately removed; and as yet no bad symptoms have manifested themselves, though seven months have now elapsed since the occurrence. The post-mortem examination of the poor man had not been made at the time I sent up my previous letter. The brain and spinal marrow, with the nerves proceeding from the upper part of the latter, the throat, and all the large viscera were examined; but no decidedly abnormal appearances were found. Since then two boys have died from the same fell disease. One, eleven years of age, was bitten in the lip very severely on the 10th of April. He was taken to the Royal Infirmary, two to three hours at least elapsing before his arrival there. Nitrate of silver was applied to the wound. He remained in the infirmary. On the 8th of May the first symptoms of hydrophobia manifested themselves; and on the 10th he died. In the other and more recent case—a boy of twelve years—the terrible signs of hydrophobia showed themselves on the 1st of June. It was then recollected that he had been bitten three or four weeks before in the thumb by a strange dog, and for which nothing had been done. He died on the 3rd of June. I do not detail the symptoms in either case, because they closely resembled previous ones. They are all characterized by a peculiar susceptibility about the pharynx and upper part of the windpipe, which, as it increases, gives rise to constant efforts to clear the throat, and, in doing so, to the peculiar noises that are sometimes heard. Neither do I tell of the treatment. Several medical practitioners saw each of the young patients, and various means were tried. Narcotics seem to be the most often resorted to, of course with the hope of alleviating the great suffering; but the result certainly does not afford any evidence in their favour. The attention of the authorities of the town has been thoroughly roused by the great number of deaths that have now occurred from this cause; and for the last few weeks the crusade against dogs has been terrific. Every day from thirty to forty people attend the Police-court in answer to summonses they have received, and are in most cases fined from 1s. to 5s. and costs for allowing their dogs to be at large. During the month of May alone 700 dogs were destroyed, and 1219 informations laid against owners. Of course these proceedings have given rise to a great deal of dissatisfaction, and numerous letters have appeared in the local journals on the subject. Still to insist on all dogs being muzzled or led by a string when out in the streets seems the only effectual remedy for checking the progress of rabies, which has been now for some years on the increase. In most of the cases of hydrophobia, it has come out in evidence that the dog that had bitten the person did also bite several other dogs; therefore, if it were practicable to confine all dogs till such as had been bitten had manifested the disease and been destroyed, there might be some hope of making hydrophobia of as rare occurrence as formerly.

The mortality of Liverpool would have been considerably below the average for the last eight weeks but for one disease, typhus, which still continues much in excess. There have been 197 deaths from that alone, being 117 more than the corrected average.

The activity of our health committee is shown in the report that is read at their weekly meeting of the number of nuisances that had been inspected and means taken to remedy them. In one week 156 had been inquired into, and 1078 houses in the unhealthiest districts, 1804 courts, and 556 cellars had been put under examination with the view of improving their sanitary condition, and 1715 lbs. of unwholesome meat and 621 lbs. of fish destroyed by the leave-lookers.

On Friday last Dr. Grimsdale operated on a young woman for ovarian disease at the Lying-in-Hospital. The tumour was very adherent posteriorly, and had a short and broad pedicle. Up to the present time she is doing well. In recording this